

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application. Claim 4 has been amended in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Otherwise, the claims remain substantively unchanged notwithstanding the Examiner's art rejection.

The claim objection is believed overcome in view of the above amendment.

The *35 U.S.C. 103(a)* rejection of claims 1-5 as being unpatentable over *Reynolds* (U.S. Patent No. 4,261,269) in view of *Pawlakowski* (U.S. Patent No. 5,357,074) is traversed because the Examiner's suggestion or motivation to combine the references is inadequate.

More particularly, the Examiner states in page 3 of the Office Action that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify *Reynolds* to have the pad-proximate surface, the fusible material and the L-shaped figure as taught by *Pawlakowski* *in order to reduce the manufacture cost*. It is unclear from the language of the Office Action as to where, i.e., in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available in the art, the stated motivation of reducing the manufacture cost might be found. Clarification is respectfully requested.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, modifying *Reynolds* with *Pawlakowski* would *not* reduce the manufacture cost. *Pawlakowski* teaches device 10 having carrier strip section 14 and a plurality of fingers 20. The carrier strip section 14 includes first metal 12 and second metal layer 18 disposed on first metal 12 and integrally joined thereto. First metal 12 has a low electrical resistance and minimal magnetic permeability such as copper, or a copper alloy. Second metal 18, for example, Alloy No. A-42 of nickel (42%) and iron (58%), has high electrical resistance and high magnetic permeability. A fusible electrically conductive material 32 is disposed in skived sections of the fingers. A source of constant amplitude alternating current is applied to induce eddy currents in device 10 so that fusible material 34 is melted to interconnect conductors 36 and contact pads 52 of circuit board 50. After soldering has been complete, carrier strip portion 14 is broken off at scored section 30. *See* column 4, lines 4-18 and 41-45, column 5, lines 26-46 and Figs. 2 and 5

of *Pawlikowski*. Thus, modifying *Reynolds* with *Pawlikowski* as proposed by the Examiner would require the manufacture process to *additionally* include forming carrier strip section 14 from two different materials and breaking off carrier strip section 14 after soldering. Manufacturing the Examiner's proposed modified device would be more complicated in process (due to additional processing steps), more expensive in material (due to the *Pawlikowski* strict requirements for electrical resistance and magnetic permeability) and less economic (due to material waste in form of discarded carrier strip section 14) than manufacturing the *Reynolds* device. Therefore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would *not* have found the Examiner's suggestion or motivation of cost saving sufficient to make the proposed modification.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 1-5, *as formulated by the Examiner*, is inappropriate and should be withdrawn or rephrased.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been overcome/traversed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) A device as claimed in Claim [5] 3, characterized in that said circuit comprises a number of tracks (7a, 7b), each defined by a semicut metal strip applied to said board (2).